



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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Senator Lincoln Chafee on why he opposed the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill

WASHINGTON, DC -- "I have been working for three years on bipartisan legislation that offers an affordable, effective prescription drug program to our seniors while addressing the future solvency of the Medicare program. If we are to save the Medicare program for future generations, we cannot add an additional entitlement while enacting deep tax cuts, funding a costly war and allowing overall spending to increase at historic rates. This bill will soon become law and I am fearful that it will not be what many seniors are expecting.

I continue to be concerned by the growing deficit, which will eventually produce a cost to our economy that all Americans will bear. Therefore, it is my unfortunate conclusion that the disadvantages in this bill outweigh the benefit conferred on our seniors.

By supporting a procedural motion, I am satisfied to have exempted Rhode Island from a demonstration project that could have meant higher premiums for our seniors."